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ently indicated a rapid development and growth of the animal. Portions of apples were exhibited with dense hemispherical groups of attached barnacles an inch and a half in diameter with the barnacles from 2 to 3 lines long, and several cranberries with bunches in which the barnacles are from 2 to 6 lines long.

Reputed Tape-worm in a Cucumber.—Prof. LEIDY stated that several years ago, his colleague in the University, Prof. Wm. Goodell, submitted to his examination a tape-worm, which he received from a correspondent, with the label “From the middle of a cucumber preserved in brine. S. E. Robinson, West Union, Iowa, May 29, 1876.” The specimen appears to be complete and in its present condition, preserved in alcohol, is about eight inches long. The head is large, spheroid, provided with four, small, equi-distant hemispherical bothria, and surmounted by a prominent crown with a double circle of strong hooks. The neck is a slight constriction whence the body rapidly widens and again tapers behind. The anterior segments are transversely linear with a gradually increasing length and more acute and prominent lateral ends; the middle segments are about twice the breadth of the length and slightly companulate; and the posterior segments are proportionately longer and narrower. In the latter, the uterus is distended with eggs only at their anterior portion.

The hooks are partially lost on one side of the crown; and it is estimated that there were about 40 or more.

The head is .875 mm. broad; the crown of hooks .625 mm.; the neck .8 mm.; at the middle of the body six segments together are 1 cm. long and 3.5 mm. wide; the terminal segments are about 4 mm. long and 2.5 mm. wide. The eggs measure from .032 to .036 mm.

While it cannot be admitted that the worm belonged to the cucumber, nor is it clear how it reached this position, it is a question as to the species. It bears a near resemblance to the *Taenia crassicolis* of the Cat, but is not more than half the size of this as it ordinarily occurs.

In comparison with a complete specimen of the latter, six inches in length in the contracted condition as preserved in alcohol, we find the following measurements.

	<i>T. of the cucumber</i>	<i>T. crassicolis.</i>
Breadth of head - - -	.875 mm.	1.875 mm.
Breadth of crown of hooks - - -	.625 “	1. “
Breadth of neck - - -	.8 “	1.25 “
Breadth of middle segments - - -	3.5 “	6 to 8 “
Length of middle segments - - -	1.66 “	1. “
Breadth of terminal segments - - -	2.5 “	3.5 “
Length of terminal segments - - -	4. “	5. “

Diamonds in Meteorites.—Professor CARVILL LEWIS exhibited a small fragment of a meteorite which had fallen in the district of Krasnoslobodsk, Government of Penza, Siberia, on September 4, 1886,

and which he had obtained through the kindness of Mr. George F. Kunz. The specimen was of especial interest on account of the report (see *Nature*, Dec. 1, 1887. xxxvii, p. 110) that Professor Latchinof and Jerofief had detected in the insoluble residue small corpuscles having all the characters of diamonds.

The speaker had extracted from the fragment in his possession two small oval bodies with extremely high index of refraction and showing only slight traces of polarization, such as is common to many diamonds. They were colorless and transparent, resembling certain specimens of Brazilian "bort." Having been able to distinctly scratch a polished sapphire with portions of the meteorite, he was disposed to agree with Professor Latchinoff and Jerofief that these bodies were true diamonds. The olivine in this meteorite was also in the form of oval grains and had a deep yellow color and bright polarization. The rounded form of the olivine and the diamonds may have been due to corrosion of the igneous mass. This rounded form is very commonly shown by the olivines in basic eruptive rocks.

While diamonds have never before been found in meteorites, carbon has long been known in them in its graphitic or amorphous form. Recently Fletcher¹ has described under the name of Cliftonite a cubical form of carbon, somewhat harder than ordinary graphite, which he found in an Australian meteorite.

The important bearing of the present discovery upon the vexed question of the diamond is evident. The speaker had recently endeavored to show that the commonly received notion that itacolumite was the original matrix of the diamond is a mistake, and that diamonds really occur in, or in the neighborhood of, basic eruptive rocks.² The facts regarding the associations of the diamond in Africa, Borneo, New South Wales, California and elsewhere all point to peridotites or allied rocks as the matrix of the diamond. The similarity, both in structure and composition, of the diamond-bearing Kimberlite of South Africa to meteorites had been pointed out by the speaker previously, and he had, in view of this fact, suggested the search for diamonds in meteorites.

Ctenophores in Fresh Water:—Dr. BENJAMIN SHARP reported that he had observed in a fresh water pond at Sachecha, Nantucket, a great number of Ctenophores, in apparently good condition. This pond is occasionally opened to the sea to allow the escape of the perch that breed there in great numbers. The *Ctenophores* without doubt found their way into the pond at such time. As far as he could determine they were the common *Mnemiopsis Leidyi*, unchanged by their strange environment. They not only appeared perfectly healthy and active but were highly phosphorescent at night. He was not

¹ Jour. Mineralog. Soc. vii, p. 121, 1887.

² Proc. Brit. Assoc. Adv. Science. Manchester, 1887. (See Geolog. Magazine, March. 1888.)